AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An annotating system for aiding a user in performing bulk mapping of queries to tasks to update training data for training a search component, the annotating system comprising:

a query log containing a plurality of queries which have previously been submitted to a search engine;

a task list containing a plurality of possible tasks;

a training data store containing training data;

a machine learning component which suggests best guess query-to-task mappings for multiple query entries as a function of the training data; and

a graphical user interface generating component which simultaneously displays multiple query entries of the plurality of query entries in the query log and multiple tasks of the plurality of tasks in the task list in a manner which associates the suggested best guess query-to-task mappings;

wherein when the graphical user interface generating component receives a first type of input from the user to map a particular query entry of the multiple simultaneously displayed query entries to its corresponding suggested best guess task, the machine learning component updates the training data by mapping the particular query entry to the suggested best guess task to provide updated training data and stores the updated training data in the training data store.

2. (previously presented) The annotating system of claim 1, wherein the machine learning component is configured to suggest, for each of the plurality of query entries corresponding to the query log, a best guess task for potential query-to-task mapping as a function of the training data.

3. (previously presented) The machine learning component of claim 2, wherein the graphical user interface generating component displays the plurality of query entries in the query log in a manner which associates each of the displayed plurality of query entries with its corresponding suggested best guess task.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The annotating system of claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface generating component is further configured to receive a second type of input from the user when the user wishes to view a list of next best guess tasks for the particular query entry for potential mapping.

6. (previously presented) The annotating system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of query entries corresponding to the query log is a query bundle, and wherein each query bundle represents a plurality of queries in the query log which have been bundled together.

7. (original) The annotating system of claim 6, wherein upon receipt of the first type of input through the graphical user interface the machine learning component updates the training data by mapping each of the plurality of queries, represented by the query bundle, to the suggested best guess task.

8. (original) The annotating system of claim 6, wherein the suggested best guess for each query bundle is a weighted average of best guesses for each of the plurality of queries represented by the query bundle.

9. (original) The annotating system of claim 6, wherein the graphical user interface generating component is further configured to receive a second type of input from the user when the user wishes to view a list of queries represented by a particular query bundle, and in response to receipt of the second type of input the graphical user interface generating component being configured to display the list of queries represented by the query bundle.

10. (previously presented) The annotating system of claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface generating component is further configured to display the task list.

11. (original) The annotating system of claim 10, wherein the graphical user interface generating component is further configured to receive a second type of input from the user when the user wishes to map the particular query entry to a task, from the displayed task list, which differs from the suggested best guess task, and wherein upon receipt of the second type of input through the graphical user interface the machine learning component is configured to update the training data by mapping the particular query entry to the task from the displayed task list.

12. (previously presented) The annotating system of claim 1, wherein upon updating the training data by mapping the particular query entry to a task, the machine learning component is configured to automatically update the best guess task for each of the remaining ones of the plurality of query entries as a function of the updated training data.

13. (original) The annotating system of claim 12, wherein the machine learning component is a Naive Bayes classifier.

14. (original) The annotating system of claim 1, wherein the machine learning component is configured to suggest, for each of the plurality of possible tasks in the task list, a list of queries from the query log which are probable for query-to-task mapping as a function of the training data.

15. (currently amended) A method of aiding a user in performing bulk mapping of queries to tasks to obtain updated training data for training a search component, the method comprising:

obtaining a query log containing a plurality of queries which have previously been submitted to a search engine;

obtaining a task list containing a plurality of possible tasks;

determining for each of a plurality of query entries corresponding to the query log a best guess task for potential query-to-task mapping, wherein the best guess task is determined as a function of the training data using a machine learning component;

displaying simultaneously the plurality of query entries in the query log in a manner which associates each of the displayed plurality of query entries with its corresponding suggested best guess task;

receiving a first type of input from the user when the user wishes to map a particular query entry of the plurality of simultaneously displayed query entries to its corresponding suggested best guess task; and

updating the training data using the machine learning component, by mapping the particular query entry to the suggested best guess task, upon receipt of the first type of input; and

storing the updated training data in memory.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, and further comprising:

receiving a second type of input from the user when the user wishes to view a list of next best guess tasks for the particular query entry for potential mapping; and

displaying the list of next best guess tasks, determined as functions of the training data using the machine learning component, for the particular query entry.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of query entries corresponding to the query log is a query bundle, and wherein each query bundle represents a plurality of queries in the query log which have been bundled together.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein upon receipt of the first type of input the method further comprising:

updating the training data, using the machine learning component, by mapping each of the plurality of queries represented by the query bundle to the suggested best guess task.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, and further comprising:

receiving a second type of input from the user when the user wishes to view a list of queries represented by a particular query bundle; and

displaying the list of queries represented by the query bundle in response to receipt of the second type of input.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, and further comprising displaying the task list.

22.(original) The method of claim 21, and further comprising:

receiving a second type of input from the user when the user wishes to map the particular query entry to a task, from the displayed task list, which differs from the suggested best guess task; and

updating the training data, using the machine learning component, by mapping the particular query entry to the task from the displayed task list upon receipt of the second type of input.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, and upon updating the training data by mapping the particular query entry to a task, further comprising automatically updating the best guess task, using the machine learning component, for each of the remaining ones of the plurality of query entries as a function of the updated training data.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the machine learning component is a Naive Bayes classifier.

25. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein determining for each of the plurality of query entries corresponding to the query log a best guess task further comprises determining, for each task in the task list, a list of queries from the query log which are probable for query-to-task mapping as a function of the training data using the machine learning component.

26. (original) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for implementing the steps of claim 15.

27-30. (canceled)